

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305497
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SCS-06 CA-01 /019 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:GDKULICK:LHW
APPROVED BY NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII
H:EGLANPHER (SUBS)
CA/SCS:EPOWERS
-----129351 222355Z /66
P 222342Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, IS

SUBJECT: PROBLEMS OF BLACK AMERICAN TRAVELERS TO ISRAEL:
INQUIRY FROM CONGRESSMAN FAUNTROY

REF:A)STATE 302082 (B) STATE 303446

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM DELEGATE (CONGRESS-
MAN) WALTER FAUNTROY (D-DC) REQUESTING THAT DEPARTMENT
ASSIST TWO FORMER RESIDENTS OF BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY
IN DIMONA TO RECEIVE VISITORS' VISAS TO VISIT THEIR
FAMILIES WHO STILL RESIDE IN DIMONA.

2. ONE OF THE APPLICANTS, CLARENCE ELLIS, ORIGINALLY
WENT TO ISRAEL IN 1970 WHERE, HE SAYS HE OBTAINED A
PERMANENT RESIDENT VISA. ELLIS LEFT ISRAEL IN 1974 BECAUSE
OF FAMILY PROBLEMS AND WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO RETURN IN
JANUARY, 1975, WAS REFUSED ENTRY AT LOD AIRPORT. ELLIS
TOOK HIS PROBLEM TO ISRAELI CONSULATE IN CHICAGO IN
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1975 BUT CLAIMS HE RECEIVED ONLY "DOUBLE TALK" AND WAS
UNABLE TO RECEIVE VISA.

3. THE OTHER APPLICANT, WARREN BROWN, WENT TO ISRAEL
IN 1971 WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL JANUARY, 1974, ON A
TOURIST VISA WHICH HE HAD EXTENDED EVERY THREE MONTHS.
BROWN ATTEMPTED TO RETURN TO ISRAEL IN MARCH, 1974,

AND WAS ALSO DENIED ADMISSION AT THE AIRPORT. (REFTEL B INDICATED THAT ONE WARREN BROWN WAS PART OF GROUP ALLEGED BY ISRAELIS TO BE ATTEMPTING TO JOIN KINLOCK GROUP FOR PURPOSE OF REMAINING IN ISRAEL. SUBJECT OF THIS TELEGRAM DENIED TO DEPTOFF THAT HE WAS INVOLVED WITH KINLOCK GROUP.)

4. ELLIS AND BROWN EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WISH ONLY TO VISIT TEMPORARILY WITH THEIR FAMILIES--90 DAYS IN ELLIS' CASE AND TWO WEEKS IN BROWNS--AND THAT THEY WILL COMPLY WITH WHATEVER CONDITIONS ISRAELIS LAY DOWN FOR ENSURING THEIR DEPARTURE INCLUDING DEPOSITING OF PASSPORT AND RETURN TICKET WITH IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES. THEY STATED THEIR APPEAL IS ON HUMANITARIAN AND NOT ON POLITICAL GROUNDS.

5. INSTANT CASE SIMILAR TO THAT OF MR. AND MRS. OWENS (REFTEL A), WITH ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION THAT BROWN AND ELLIS ARE AVOWED BLACK HEBREWS WHO FORMERLY RESIDED IN ISRAEL. IF OWENS CASE HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN UP WITH MFA, IT SHOULD BE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TOGETHER WITH REQUESTS OF BROWN AND ELLIS. EMBASSY SHOULD EMPHASIZE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF LATTER CASE (TWO MEN HAVE NOT SEEN THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN FOR ALMOST FOUR YEARS) AND STRESS THE ACTIVE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST OF CONGRESSMAN FAUNTROY.
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6. REQUEST AT LEAST INTERIM REPLY BY DECEMBER 28.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE305497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GDKULICK:LHW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770478-0795
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771224/aaaaaukc.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 43d0cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 302082, 77 STATE 303446
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 143663
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROBLEMS OF BLACK AMERICAN TRAVELERS TO ISRAEL: INQUIRY FROM CONGRESSMAN FAUNTROY
TAGS: CASC, IS
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43d0cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009